

Faculty Senate Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes

April 4, 2012, 3:00 pm

Faculty Senate Chambers

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Members Present – M. Arndt, S. Boyd, J. Brickey, L. Burriss, N. Callender, L. Clark, W. Cribb, L. Dubek, G. Freeman, T. Farwell, A. Lutz, K. Mathis

Members Absent – L. Craig-Unkefer

Members Excused – C. Beauchamp, C. Cooper, K. Nofsinger, G. Zlotky

Additional Attendees –

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from February and March were approved.

Old Business

New Business

1. TUFS Conference Summary: One other TBR institution allows for faculty evaluation of nonacademic VPs. Alfred suggested that the faculty push for such evaluations. Michael shared that following his meeting with the Provost, this issue was discussed. The suggestion was made that the faculty more intimately involved with specific administrators should perform their evaluations. Investigating how other institutions handle such issues was suggested. Having administrators present goals for an academic year was suggested. The number of non-Tenure Track faculty members for each institution was requested as well as the goal of the institutions concerning these numbers. The need for individual institutions to have shared governance language was suggested. Alfred stated that two legislators shared that personal relationships with them was the most effective means of influence.
2. Agenda items submitted to the TBR Faculty Sub-Council meeting on April 20: Alfred would like the legal council’s opinion on what our limits as faculty are. Alfred requested the TBR opinion on evaluation of administrators. The academic misconduct policy is currently passing its way through the system; however, other sub-councils may not have MTSU’s version. Alfred has asked which version is being considered.
3. Senate Officer Elections: Scott Boyd indicated interest in the office of Senate President. Larry Burriss also submitted his name for consideration. Nate Callender expressed his willingness to continue as Recording Secretary given no other volunteers arise.
4. Provost issues: The Provost is concerned with how faculty input is requested on campus. He suggested that redlined policy be given to faculty one month prior to approval. The Provost also suggested more contact between the Senate and himself. A historical perspective was given that the Provost had more interaction; however, it presented a conflict of interest. Having the Provost informed via an agenda sent well in advance prior to an invitation to Senate meetings was suggested. Absence of administrators from Senate meetings, unless invited, seemed desirable. The current process of inviting the Provost for specific discussions was considered appropriate.
5. Senator responsibilities: A process by which Senators are informed of their responsibilities was recommended. It was suggested that the new President state the responsibilities at the May Senate meeting in which new Senators are welcomed.
6. National Agenda Policy Meeting: Michael attended a national policy agenda meeting in which academic preparation of students was discussed. He shared that it was production oriented. Encouraging learning communities was discussed. Faculty input early in the process was requested. Broad categories of general education courses to fulfill the requirements for similar programs were discussed. Different advising systems were discussed.
7. Academic Showcase: April 7th, 2013 is a possible date for a showcase for academia (faculty and students) at the Schermerhorn.

Action Items

1. Michael will develop a draft set of Senator responsibilities to present to the Steering Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Nate Callender

2011-2012 Faculty Senate Recording Secretary

Edited: Gay L. Johnson, April 11, 2012